

I am dismayed by the FCC's decision to allow such strong consolidation of our media. I am a moderate republican, 46 years old, in a small market.

Growing up here, I remember that there were once two local newspapers and several local (UHF) television stations. Our single paper is now owned by a conglomerate and is a mediocre source of news at best. Our television station almost exclusively broadcasts canned stories provided by its corporate owners during the "news" segments. My small experience with consolidation and corporate ownership of media has been entirely negative.

To see the FCC encourage an expansion of this practice, with virtually no public input, leads me to believe that the interests of Rupert Murdoch and his cadre are more important to the majority of the commission than are the interests of the consumers of media in this country. I urge you to reconsider your decision.

Paul Larson